


BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2000-0150-C - ORDER NO. 2000-0311  
APRIL 12, 2000

IN RE: Request of AT&T Communications of the ) ORDER SUSPENDING  
Southern States, Inc. for approval of ) TARIFF, SETTING  
Revisions to its General Services Tariff. ) MATTER FOR HEARING  
 ) AND STATING PREFILE  
 ) DATES  
 )



This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on Tariff Filing 2000-132, filed by AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T or the Company), which would revise the Company's General Services Tariff. These revisions would make rate changes in accordance with Commission Order No. 84-622 in Docket No. 84-10-C, and would affect the Company's Basic Dial 1 Inter LATA rates (Schedules X,Y,Z) and the InterLATA One Rate with Card Plan and InterLATA One Rate Plus Plan.

In Order 84-622, the Commission adopted a rate design for interLATA carriers which included only a maximum rate level for each tariff charge. The Commission held in that Order that upon approval of the maximum levels for the rates, adjustments of the particular rates below the maximum would not constitute a general ratemaking proceeding or a modification of an existing rate, since the prior approval of the maximum constituted approval of each lower rate level. Under that Order, only if the Company has proposed an increase in the maximum levels would a general ratemaking proceeding be held.

We later issued Order No. 95-1195, however, which modified Order No. 84-622 somewhat. In Order No. 95-1195, we recognized that certain rate increases below the maximum rates bear further investigation, and require further information gathering. In that Order, we reserved the right to set for hearing those rate increases below the maximum rate which we believe need further justification for the public good.

We hold that the rate increases found in Tariff Filing 2000-132 are in the category of needing further justification for the public good. It appears on the surface that these rate increases bear further investigation and information gathering. AT&T's requested rate increases appear to cancel out in part a recent rate reduction to the Company's customers, brought about by a reduction of access charges to AT&T by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. However, further investigation needs to be conducted in this matter.

Accordingly, we suspend the provisions of Tariff Filing 2000-132, pending an investigation and information gathering regarding said tariff. We also declare that a hearing shall be held on this matter, at such time as shall be designated by the Commission Staff.

Pursuant to 26 S.C. Regs. 103-869(C)(Supp.1999), the Commission hereby orders that twenty-five copies of the testimony and exhibits of the Applicant shall be prefiled on or before **May 2, 2000**, and that twenty-five copies of the testimony and exhibits of the Commission Staff and/or intervenors shall be pre-filed on or before **May 16, 2000**. (Material may be post-marked on these dates.) Also, any rebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be pre-filed on or before **May 23, 2000**, and any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits shall be pre-filed on or before **May 25, 2000**. (Material must be in the offices of the

Commission and in the hands of the parties on these dates.) It should be noted that acceptance into the record of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission. In addition, parties shall serve their pre-filed testimony and exhibits on all other parties of record as required by the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during any hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding, and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

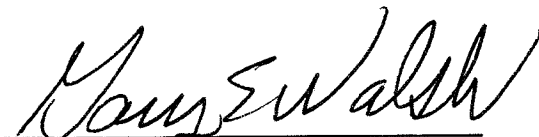
Please take notice that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)